

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the present amendment and remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 18, 19 and 21 were previously canceled.

Claims 1-17 and 20 have been rejected.

Claim 16 was objected to.

Claims 13, 14 and 16 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

Claims 1, 4, 15 and 20 have been amended.

Claims 1-12, 15, 17 and 20 are pending in this application.

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's indication that claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim (1) and any intervening claims (i.e. 13 and 14). Accordingly, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of claims 13, 14 and 16. Accordingly, applicant submits that amended claim 1 is allowable and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the above objection.

Claims 1-10, 17 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerogiokas et al. (U.S. Publ. No. 2002/0187811) in view of Doner (U.S. Pat. No. 5,901,355). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended into a condition for allowance as detailed above.

Claim 4 has been amended to insert the word "level" after the word "power" to provide consistency of terms in the claims.

Claims 2-9 and 17 are dependent on newly amended claim 1 and applicant's above comments with respect to claim 1 are hereby incorporated by reference. For the foregoing reasons, claims 2-9 and 17 are now deemed allowable as well for the same reasons.

Claim 20 has been amended to include the same recitations as amended claim 1, in apparatus form, and is therefore deemed allowable as well for the same reasons.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome.

Claims 11-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerogiokas in view of Doner as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Wright et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,760,566). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 13 and 14 have been cancelled.

Claims 11-12 are dependent on newly amended claim 1 and applicant's above comments with respect to claim 1 are hereby incorporated by reference. For the foregoing reasons, claims 11-12 are now deemed allowable as well for the same reasons.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome.

Claim 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerogiokas in view of Doner and Wright as applied to claims above, and further in view of Tigerstedt et al. (U.S. Publ. No. 2002/0187784). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 15 has been amended to depend from claim 1.

Claim 15 is dependent on newly amended claim 1 and applicant's above comments with respect to claim 1 are hereby incorporated by reference. For the foregoing reasons, claim 15 is now deemed allowable as well for the same reasons.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome.

The other references of record have been reviewed and applicant's invention is deemed patentably distinct and nonobvious over each taken alone or in combination.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully request that the above rejections be withdrawn.

Inasmuch as this amendment distinguishes all of the applicants' claims over the prior art references, for the many reasons indicated above, passing of this case is now believed to be in order. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

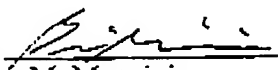
No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

In the event that the Examiner deems the present application non-allowable, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the Applicants' attorney at the number indicated below so that the prosecution of the present case may be advanced by the clarification of any continuing rejection or through an Examiner's amendment.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any fees necessitated by actions taken herein to Deposit Account 50-2117.

Respectfully submitted,
Brusch et al.

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